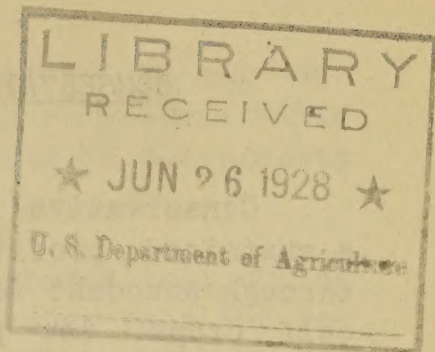


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit.

CONSERVATIVE GRAZING PAYS.

contrasting the economic losses of over-grazing of range lands with profits of conservative grazing by means of cutouts of cattle, actual forage plant specimens and scenic settings supplemented by colored and changing lights.

CONSERVATIVE GRAZING PAYS

Conservative grazing of range lands means a sustained, profitable range livestock industry through abundant feed, fat cows, high percentage calf crops, low percentage death losses, top calves and top prices.

The exhibit "Conservative Grazing Pays" illustrates by the presentation of two contrasted scenes how continued overgrazing results in shortage of feed, thin cows, poor calf crops, high death losses, stunted calves and low prices and how conservative grazing is the basis of economic success in the range cattle business.

On one side of a fence that divides the exhibit the soil is depleted, the vegetation sparse and scraggly and the cattle thin and leggy". Across the fence the forage is abundant and well sustained and the cattle sleek, well-filled and contented.

The Range Livestock Industry.

More than one-third of the area of the United States is used by the range livestock industry, which produces a large part of the Nation's beef and lamb and the major portion of its wool and corn-belt feeders. A sustained, profitable, range livestock industry depends on the permanent maintenance of the range resources through conservative grazing.

What is Conservative Grazing?

Conservative grazing is simply utilizing the forage to no greater degree than will assure perpetuating the vigor and growth of the important palatable range plants.

In average years, at least 10 to 15 per cent of the palatable herbage of the valuable range plants should be left at the end of the grazing season. This insures reseeding.

Conservative grazing recognizes that spring is the critical period of the range year and requires that a portion of the range area be reserved for spring use. In an average year part or all of the feed on such reserved spring range may not be used, but, even so, it is better to have this margin available as an insurance during drought years and to avoid the risk of bringing about a gradual deterioration of the range.

Benefits of Conservative Grazing.

On the Santa Rita Range Reserve in Southern Arizona the practice of conservative grazing, in connection with the range experiments under way there, has maintained profitable cattle production over a period of 10 years with no necessity for forced sale of the improved breeding herd during drought.

An average annual calf crop of 78 per cent was secured and an average loss of only 3 per cent was sustained, although 7 of the 10 years from 1916 to 1925 were drier than normal.

Calves weaned in the fall and placed in a grama grass pasture reserved for them developed to best advantage and brought top prices with practically no cut-back. In the dry years the calves were sold at weaning time and the reserved feed used for the breeding herd.

On the basis of the average annual calf crop and loss for 10 years at 1925 cattle prices, a 7.4 per cent profit on an investment of approximately \$85 per cow was obtained.

Representative southern Arizona outfits, grazing unregulated, overgrazed ranges potentially equal to those of the reserve, produced an average annual calf crop of 53 per cent, sustained an average annual loss of 10 per cent, and showed a net loss annually of 5.8 per cent on an investment of about \$55 per cow.

DANGERS OF OVERGRAZING

An attempt to graze more livestock on the range than the available forage will support always results in a shortage of feed. Continued overgrazing, especially during dry years is reflected in --

POOR CONDITION OF CATTLE

SMALL CALF CROPS

EXCESSIVE LOSSES IN DROUGHT YEARS

POOR DEVELOPMENT OF CALVES

SACRIFICE OF GOOD BREEDING STOCK

HEAVY CUT-BACKS IN ANIMALS FOR SALE,

EVEN AT LOW PRICES.

For further information consult your county agricultural agent, State Extension specialist or write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

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SPECIFICATIONS

Space required: Aisle Length -18 feet

Depth- 8 feet

Height- 10 feet

Electrical requirements: Lighting -

110 Volts, 340 Watts.